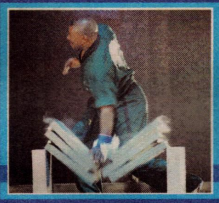
No 630 October 7, 2001

THE FUNDAY TIMES



Fists of fury
Funday reports on the high-kicking contenders in Masters Of Combat
Page 3

Tread carefully
Discover the bizarre prehistoric mammals that prowled the Earth long ago
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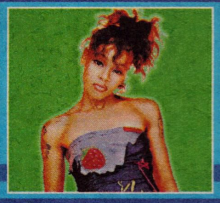

Join her party
TLC's Lisa "Lefteye" Lopes tells Funday about her new solo single, Block Party
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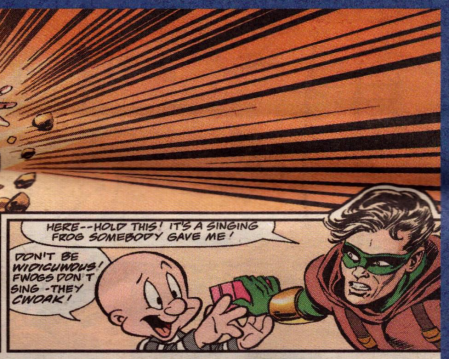
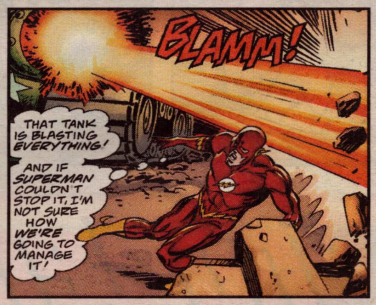
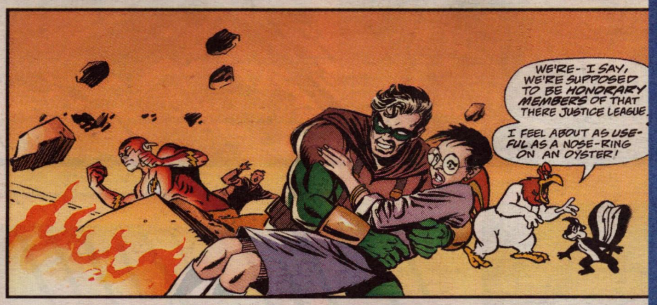
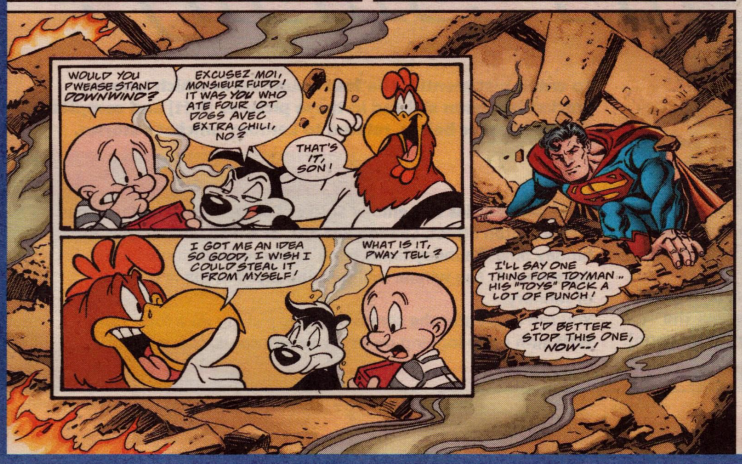
SUPERMAN & BUGS BUNNY in CWISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS!

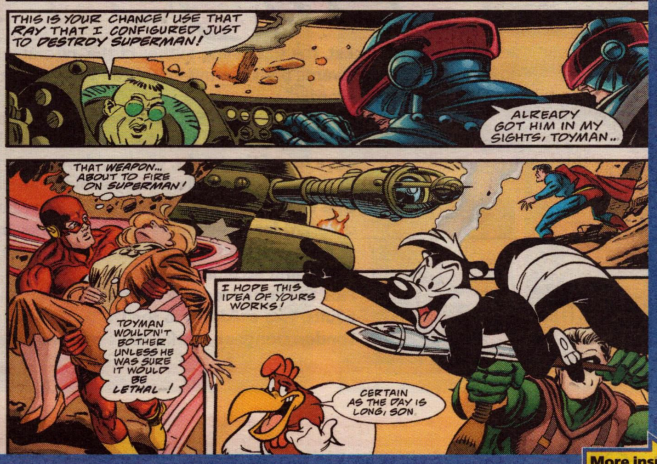
The story so far – The DC Super Heroes and the Looney Tunes battle the evil Toyman's tanks as they destroy the city's bank



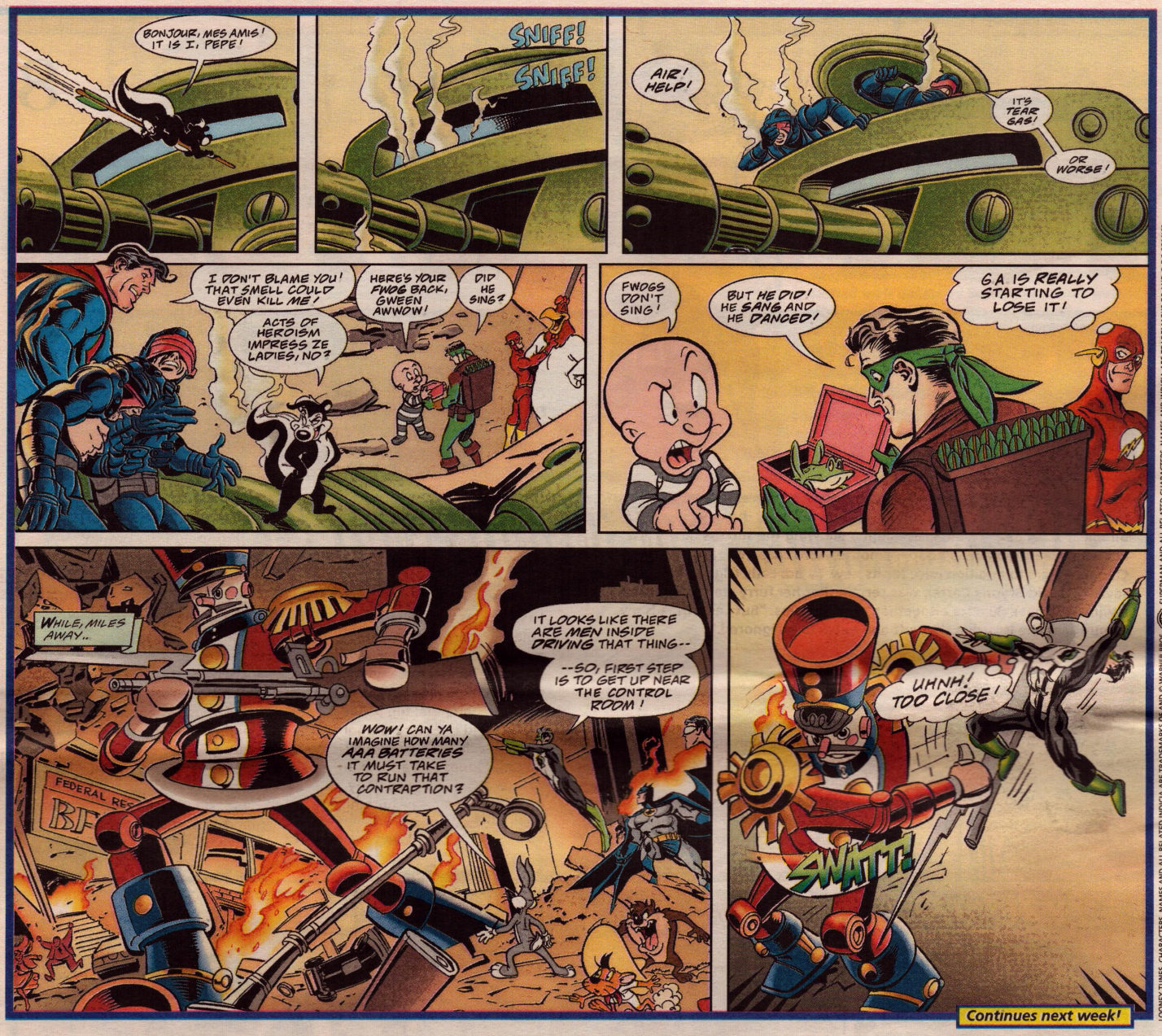








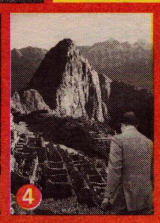
More inside



Continues next week!

LOONEY TUNES CHARACTERS NAMES AND ALL RELATED INDICIA ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © WARNER BROS SUPERMAN AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS NAMES AND INDICIA ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © DC COMICS [S01]

Can you find Lemony?



Lemony Snicket, the top-selling author of the miserable A Series of Unfortunate Events books, is missing! Even the poor Baudelaire orphans are worried.

Funday has joined forces with Egmont Books, Nickelodeon and WHSmith to scour the globe to find the unfortunate author and, if you are a fan of the books, you could win a spine-chilling trip to the land of Dracula, Transylvania in Romania.

One winner will get a family holiday [two adults and two children] for three nights to Transylvania, including a tour of Bucharest and Dracula's castle. The prize includes travel, flights and accommodation.

Plus 10 Funday readers can each win a family pass [two adults, two children] to the UK Dungeons [either the London Dungeon, York Dungeon or Edinburgh Dungeon]

SEARCH

To enter, just identify the four countries in which Lemony Snicket has been sighted in these pictures [left] and complete the tie-breaker below, related to Lemony Snicket's stories.

Just tell us what you think the next book in A Series Of Unfortunate Events should be called.

Send your entries to: Lemony Snicket Competition, Funday Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E98 1ST, or e-mail your entries to funday times@sunday-times co uk The competition runs until December 1. The winner will be announced in the first week of January.

You can also enter the competition by picking up a form from WHSmith or by logging on to www nick co uk/unfortunate

Go on, enter our creepy Lemony Snicket competition today!

FUNDAY

NEWS

I want to be fa-mouse

Lady Olga, the honey-coloured mouse from Halifax, West Yorkshire, is the inspiration behind the computer-generated rodent of the new Aero "All Bubble, No squeak" TV advertisement. Following the success of the last ad, which featured a hula-hooping mouse, Aero called on National Mouse Club members to audition mice for its new TV ad. Lady Olga's owner, seven-year-old Bryony Carter, was certain that her furry starlet would be a winner. "I have 80 mice altogether," she explains. "But Lady Olga is my favourite as she is such a showoff and hates to be ignored."

Record riders

Record Breakers presenter Fearne Cotton and Kirk Sadler, from the Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain, have zoomed into the Guinness World Records for the greatest distance travelled on different white knuckle rides within one hour. The daring duo braved five rides in 45 minutes and 41 seconds at Universal Mediterranea, on the Costa Daurada in Spain, for the new BBC series of Record Breakers. First up was the 450m Tutuki Splash, where Fearne got soaking wet. They then sprinted to the 530m Grand Canyon Rapids, the 975m wooden roller coaster, Stampida, the 950m El Diablo; and the scary Dragon Khan which, with eight fully inverted loops, gave them an extra 1,285m. All in all, they travelled a stomach-churning, record-breaking 4,190m!

Sail away

Funday talks to author Stephen Potts about his new nautical adventure, Compass Murphy.

Why did you set Compass Murphy in Whitby in the 19th century?

I was in Whitby for a medical conference [Stephen is a consultant psychiatrist]. I read a bit about the town and discovered that it was a leading port in Britain for whaling. It fitted in well with the story.

You wrote Compass Murphy on your sailing boat – the Endeavour – why did you do that?

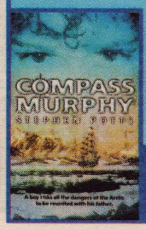
The boat is where I go to escape and get away from things. I write all my books there. It's just so peaceful and quiet. I also get a flavour of the sea onboard, with other ships moored nearby and seals popping up.

The book's hero, Joshua, has a love for the sea. Do you share that love?

Yes, I've messed about around water for years, whether it's rivers, lakes or the sea. There are many reasons why I love it. Firstly, it's beautiful. Secondly, you can get away from everything you associate with cities and modern life. Thirdly, you have to be thinking all the time at sea. You are using all your resources.

Were you wary of having Joshua's dad as a whaler?

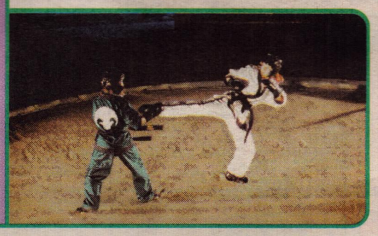
Yes, I was aware that whaling is not looked well upon today, but it was a way of life then and his dad is in fact a specksioneer – second in command to the captain. In the 19th century there were whales galore and there wasn't a problem of them becoming endangered. Also they didn't see whales the way we do now.



Compass Murphy [Egmont, £4.99] is out now

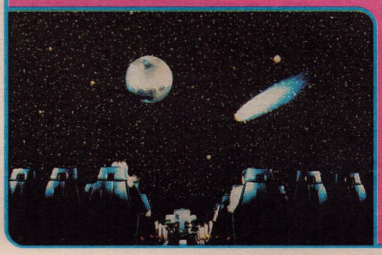
Art masters

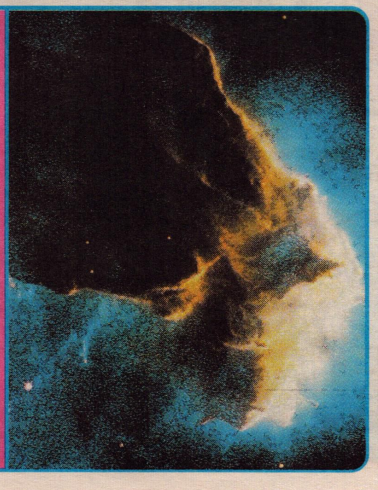
Those of you who love high-kicking action will have been glued to BBC2's *chop* martial arts show, Masters Of Combat. Presented by Gail Porter [a black belt in karate herself], the series invites two teams to compete against each other in a feast of Jackie Chan-style action. Mirella Dellafiora [left], 17, from London, is a Wu Shu expert and a member of the show's Venomous Blades team. "It's been wicked being in the show," she tells Funday. "The best bit was the semi-finals," she recalls. "I had to compete against a really big bloke in the physical trials. We were hung upside down and had to lift buckets of water using our stomach muscles and I won. Short, little Mirella won!" And the worst bit? "Watching myself on TV!" she laughs. Watch Mirella in action for yourself in the semi-finals at 6.45pm on BBC2 this Friday.



Star show

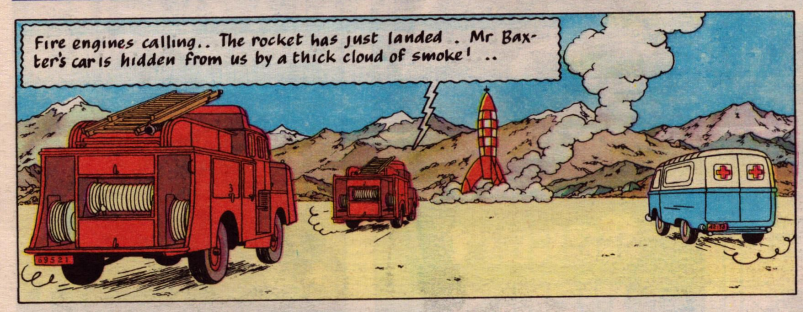
Tussaud's London Planetarium is putting on a new and spectacular show – Star Surfing For Beginners. Wannabe astronomers can take an intergalactic tour of the night sky, presented by Robin Scagell, of Popular Astronomy, and Teresa Grafton, the Planetarium's educational officer. "It's an impressive show," Teresa tells Funday. "One of the best things you get to see is a meteor shower which is lots of shooting stars." Teresa will also be giving demonstrations on how to use a planisphere or star finder. "It's really very nifty," she says. "You can look at it and see what stars are out at any time, on any day of the year." The show is at 10am next Saturday, and is included in the exhibition entry price. For more information, call 0870 400 3010.

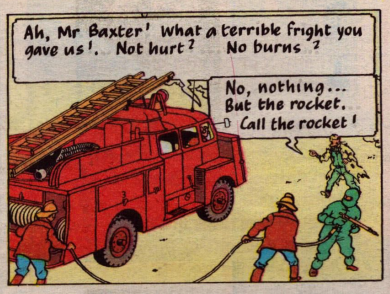


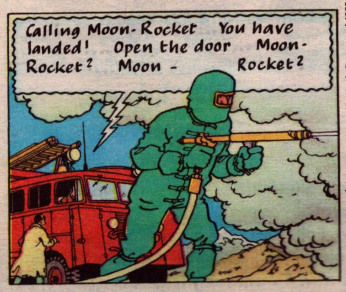


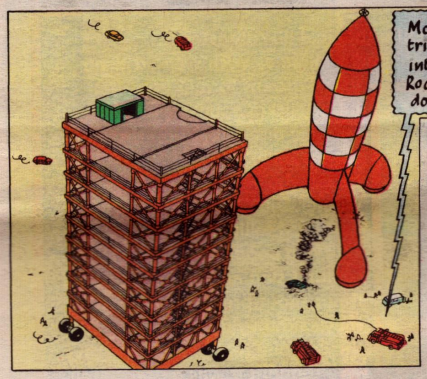
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN EXPLORERS ON THE MOON

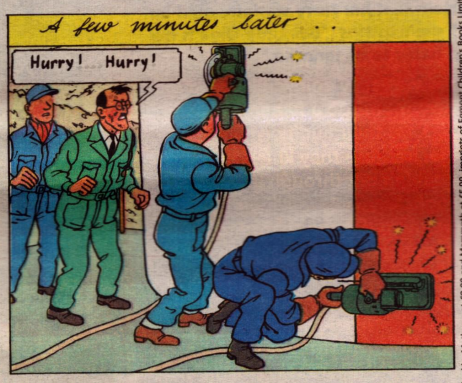
The story so far – The rocket has touched down on Earth, but will the crew be okay?

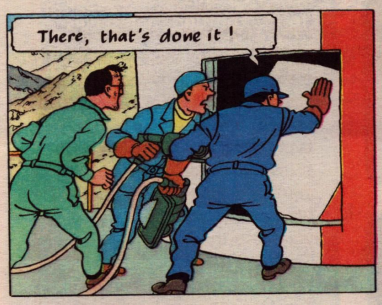


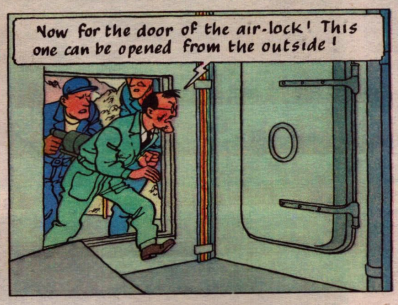












Continued next week!

Extracted from EXPLORERS ON THE MOON by Hergé. Published by Methuen at £9.99 and Mammoth at £5.99. Imprints of Egmont Children's Books Limited. Artwork © 1954 by Éditions Casterman, Artwork © renewed 1982 by Éditions Casterman. Text © 1959 by Egmont Children's Books Limited.

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

I'm the owner of two guinea-pigs and I have heard that they can be affected by fly strike. Please could you tell me about fly strike and how to prevent it.

Penelope Craine, via e-mail

Fly strike is a devastating condition in any species. It is caused by flies laying eggs on dirty, damp areas of the fur, or in open wounds, which then hatch into maggots. These maggots then digest the dead flesh and secrete enzymes which cause further breakdown. There is often a primary cause, such as a damp, dirtied coat, diarrhoea or an open wound, which must be addressed. Measures to prevent fly strike include:

- Check your guinea pig twice daily, all over
- Keep the hutch dry and clean
- Provide lots of clean straw or hay
- Keep the hutch well ventilated
- Treat any wounds or diarrhoea rapidly

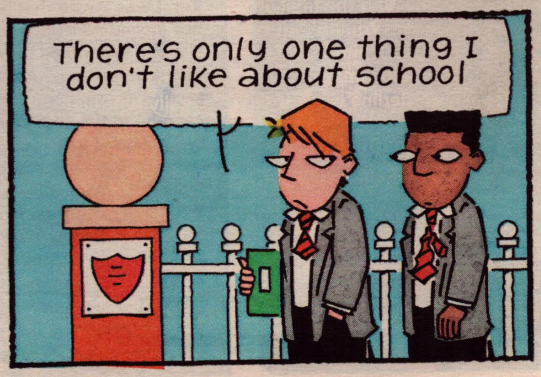
Advice by Blue Cross vet Mark Bossley

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST
You can now e-mail your pet problems to
dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year the charity found homes for thousands of animals and treated more than 50,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMICK

Jarvis



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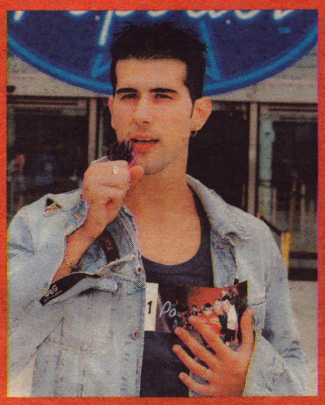
Can you draw Jarvis and Tony in a funny school situation? Have a go and send it to us this week!

CREATING A STAR

Miranda Nugent goes behind the scenes on the exciting new Pop Idol TV show



If you were a fan of Popstars you'll love Pop Idol – ITV1's new nationwide hunt for the UK's next solo superstar. One velvet-voiced contestant will land a management deal with 19 Management – the team behind the Spice Girls and S Club 7 – and a recording contract with Westlife's record company, RCA. There's no doubt about it – this show and its star are going to be huge!

The open auditions saw 10,000 people aged between 16 and 26 take part, and the TV show will be hosted by everyone's favourite cheeky chappies, Ant and Dec. "It's been great fun and we've met loads of different people so far," laughs Dec.

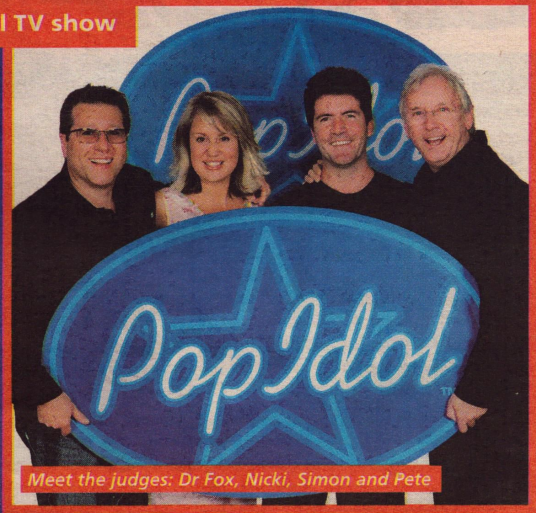
"We've heard some seriously good voices too," adds Ant. "Much better than mine and I managed to release three albums!"

The Geordie jokers are only too happy to give advice to the young wannabes as well. "It's important they try not to get too nervous," explains Ant. While Dec reckons they should have as much fun as possible. "We were in the music business for four or five years and we really enjoyed it". And did anyone choose a PJ and Duncan track for their audition?

"No, because they knew they wouldn't get through if they did!" laughs Dec.

They also got the chance to sit in on a couple of auditions, to see what the contestants had to go through. "There's no way I could do that," says Ant. "It must have been so scary sitting in front of four of the most powerful people in the music industry."

The four judges – record producer Pete Waterman, top A&R man [who signs and nurtures new acts] Simon Cowell, PR and manager Nicki Chapman, and Pepsi Chart DJ Doctor Fox – spent six weeks on the road between Manchester, Glasgow and London to find the final 50 contestants.



Meet the judges: Dr Fox, Nicki, Simon and Pete

"When they were bad it made us wish we had other jobs," groans former Popstars judge Nicki Chapman, now the creative director at pop svengali Simon Fuller's 19 Group.

Nicki, who will be managing the winner, found it wasn't actually that hard telling people the truth. "We had people who really couldn't sing and when we asked them about previous auditions they said they'd been told that they'd done really well," she says. "We thought it was better to tell them to stop putting themselves through it again."

So what exactly were the judges looking for? Was it amazing looks, a killer voice or perhaps a cheeky personality?

"Somebody with that X-factor," reveals Simon Cowell, the head of A&R at RCA records, who signed Westlife and Five. "I can't tell you what that is. Robbie Williams has it, so does Madonna." A true Pop Idol needs more than just a great voice. "They also need a bit of va-va-voom," says Dec.

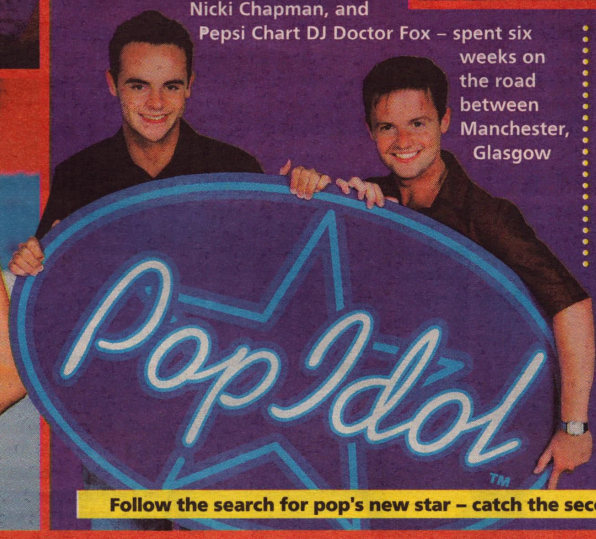
Selecting the final 50 was tough, especially when the judges couldn't agree! "We did in the end," recalls Nicki. "There were some key people where all four of us said 'amazing' as soon as we saw them. It's the borderline cases that were really difficult."

The judges' job is done. It's now up to the public to choose the new king or queen of pop.

"Their life will be totally transformed," says Dec. "It'll be tough being thrown into the limelight."

Ant reckons the new Pop Idol will be fine. "Their management will be top notch and of course we'll be around to help!"

Er ... is that wise, remember PJ and Duncan, lads!



Follow the search for pop's new star – catch the second episode of Pop Idol tonight on ITV1 at 6.30pm

PICTURES: ©CARLTON, PA

Could you be a pop star? Write in and tell us why!

CREATURES BEFORE TIME

During the rule of dinosaurs and before the emergence of modern man, early mammals roamed the Earth millions of year ago. Funday takes a look at these bizarre prehistoric creatures ...

Synapid story

Mammals and their extinct relatives are called synapids – which are named after the bony crevasse behind the eye, known as the synapid opening. Mammal features such as fur, a warm-blooded metabolism, and a lower jaw that consists of a single bone, appeared gradually during evolution. Early synapids appeared during the Carboniferous and the Permian periods [that's a whopping 355 to 250 millions of years ago!] while true mammals evolved in the Triassic period [between 250 and 203 millions of years ago].

Today's hairy, warm-blooded mammals owe their origins to reptile-like creatures such as the Dimetrodon [above]. Startling images reveal other prehistoric mammals that looked just as strange as the Dimetrodon – elephantine sloths, snaky whales, cats with dagger-like canine teeth, and hoofed animals with bizarrely horned heads.

Giant of the deep

Swimming the shallow tropical seas, 33 million years ago, was the Basilosaurus – one of the biggest fossil whales known, growing to more than 20m long. With its curved front teeth and triangular, serrated cheek teeth, Basilosaurus could grab and slice up fish and other marine mammals in a second!

Here's shaggy

The woolly mammoth is the most famous fossil animal from the Pleistocene period [1.75 to 0.01 millions of years ago]. An inhabitant of the cold Ice Age grasslands, it had a shaggy coat, huge, curving tusks and a tall, domed skull. The very last mammoths, a population of dwarf woolly mammoths, lived on Wrangel Island, north of Siberia, and died out only 4,000 years ago.

Killer pig

Daeodon is one of the biggest, best-known, and last of the entelodonts – from the pig, hippo and peccary group of mammals. It was a hefty 3m long and was an omnivore [eating both vegetation and meat] in North America around 23 million years ago. The Daeodon's teeth made it easily able to break bones and eat animal carcasses – and it probably scavenged in a similar way to modern hyenas.

Monkey worlds

This Theropithecus [left], from 5.3 millions of years ago onwards, is an "old world" monkey that searched the grasslands of Africa, Europe and Asia for seeds. There are two main types of monkeys. The "old world" monkeys came to dominate Africa and Asia while "new world" monkeys evolved in South America. Old world monkeys had downward-pointing nostrils, lived in grasslands and their tails were used for display and balance while new world monkeys had flat noses, lived in forests and used their tails to grasp branches.

Primitive primate

From North America and Europe, the Plesiadapis lived in subtropical forests 65 to 33.7 millions of year ago. The early primate [above] probably looked something like a cross between a lemur and a squirrel. It had prominent incisor teeth which helped to chew wood for grubs or sap.

On the prowl

With its feline features you may think that this 1.3m-long hunter was a sabre-toothed cat. In fact, it was a Thylacosmilus and it was an American marsupial that roamed the grasslands and open woodlands of what is now South America, between 23.5 and 1.75 millions of years ago. Unlike cats and other carnivores, the sabre-teeth of Thylacosmilus never stopped growing and always had to be worn down at their tips. The roots of the teeth arced upwards over the front of the skull, growing above the eyes.

Big, bad wolf

The dire wolf was a large 2m-long beast from North America in the Pleistocene period [1.75 to 10,000 years ago] and one of the most famous fossil dogs. Its fossils are best known from the Rancho la Brea tar pits, in California, where more than 1,600 dire wolves are preserved. Compared with modern wolves, dire wolves had larger skulls and teeth, but shorter legs.

Hollow horns

One of the most peculiar groups of mammals is the Uranotheria – a collection of plant-eating, hoofed mammals that includes elephants, seacows and hyraxes. This rhinoceros-like Arsinoitherium is a member of that group and lived in Asia, Europe and Africa between 65 and 23.5 millions of years ago. Its two massive horns on its skull were hollow – unlike rhinoceros horns. They have grooves on their surface, showing that there were blood vessels on the outside, and that the horns were covered in skin.

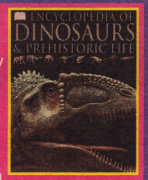
Tall guy

Like modern giraffes, the Aepycamelus or high camel was a browsing herbivore that fed from trees in the Miocene period [23.5 to 5.3 millions of years ago]. A large camel with tremendously long leg and neck bones, it inhabited North American grasslands with scattered trees, and may have become extinct as the tree cover gradually disappeared.

Digging the dirt

Spade-like paws and horns above the snout make the 30cm-long Epigaulus very distinctive. It was a member of the Mylagaulids – a group of North American burrowing rodents of the Tertiary era [65 to 1.75 million years ago]. The horns may have been used in fights or maybe they helped with digging. The large gnawing incisors could also have been used for burrowing holes. Modern-day descendants of the Epigaulus are squirrels and beavers.

Know it all



If our look at prehistoric creatures has left you hungry to know more, then try winning one of the DK Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs & Prehistoric Life [£19.99] that we've got up for grabs. Thanks to Dorling Kindersley, three readers will win a copy of the encyclopedia, the DK Amazing Pop-up Pull-out T-rex and a 61cm-high 3D T-rex jigsaw puzzle [worth £35]. Plus, 15 runners-up will get a copy of the encyclopedia.

To enter, name a flying dinosaur.

Mark your entry DINO and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

If you're not lucky enough to win this time, log on to www.dk.com to stand another chance of winning these prizes.

Adapted from the DK Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs & Prehistoric Life [£19.99]

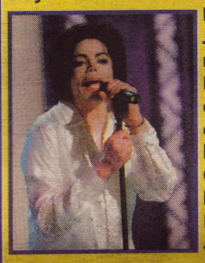
THE FUNDAY TIMES

PICTURES: ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM; BEDROCK; NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

WEBBY'S WORLD

www.michaeljackson.com

He may have been around for 30 years, but the king of pop certainly knows how to keep ahead of the game if his website is anything to go by. A great futuristic opening sequence gives way to an ultra-slick insight into Michael Jackson's music. Plus, you can get an exclusive listen to Cry from his new Invincible album.



www.barbie.com

"I love ballet," shrieks Barbie when you visit her site. You'll soon discover why if you log on – she's about to make her movie debut in Barbie In The Nutcracker. For less energetic Barbie fans, you can get creative by printing cards, mixing music or selecting the features and colours to make your own "friend of Barbie"

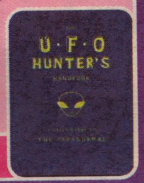
PICTURES: REUTERS

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

THE UFO HUNTER'S HANDBOOK ★★★★★

Plant your tongue firmly in your cheek and enjoy this hilarious look at some close encounters of the third kind. Its cover may be plain but, with its trendy drawings and punchy text, it makes UFO spotting the coolest pastime since skating. This is definitely a geek-free zone. Chapters include: determining if you or someone you know is an alien, conversational starters, and how to defend yourself. Look out for the fab Vampire Hunter's Handbook too. Both from Puffin [£4.99 each].



BOOK

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: ORACLE OF AGES/SEASONS ★★★★★

Link, the sword-wielding, flute-playing hero of The Legend of Zelda, returns in a two-cartridge series on the Game Boy Color – Oracle Of Ages and Oracle Of Seasons. If fantasy adventure games [in which you solve riddles and battle evil princesses] are your forte, then these games will satisfy your noble ambitions. The scrolling speech is annoying when you are trying to get the action going, so trigger-happy gamers should avoid. Both can be played on Game Boy Advance too.

GAME BOY COLOR

ENERGIZER WHEELIES ★★★★★

Being seen and getting noticed is not just cool when you're going out, it's a matter of life and death when you are biking around during the cold, dark autumn and winter months. Wheelies are futuristic lights that you attach to your spokes, so that when you pedal it looks as if you have a glowing red circle on your wheels – helping you to be seen. Plus, the slick plastic design and rubber buttons ensure they are durable. Available from Argos at £9.99 a pair. A bright idea for bikers.

BIKE GEAR

Beryl's not quite so lucky next week!

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

WHERE'S THE PARTY?

There are very few music artists who can claim to have achieved as much success as Lisa "Lefteye" Lopes. Not only has she sold around 20 million albums as a member of top American girl group TLC, she has also worked with the likes of *NSYNC, Mel C and Lil' Kim.

But, it seems, Lisa's not content with just being a successful rapper. "While I've been busy with my first solo album, Supernova, I've also worked on other projects including a TV programme called Chef-side," Lisa tells Funday. "It's fast, healthy meals for children to learn to cook, so that when they get older they don't have a lot of the problems we have today such as food allergies."

As well as cooking up a storm in the kitchen, Lisa has developed a range of clothing called Jamxedos. But where did she get that name from? "It's like formal pyjama wear," she explains. "It's real fun stuff and the name is "jam" from pyjama's and "xedo" from tuxedo [the American word for a dinner jacket]."

Lisa, 30, formed TLC 10 years ago with friends T-Boz and Chilli and the trio were one of the original no messin' R&B groups which are even credited with inspiring the Spice Girls. No Scrubs, probably their best known song, was released in the UK two years ago. Lisa's antics got her a reputation as the craziest member of TLC, but she hopes that Supernova's mix of R&B, dance and her rap vocals might help people to see her in a new light. Lefteye has even designed a game to use with the album. "In life everybody has questions that they want answered. That's what the gameball is for – roll the ball and it will direct you to a song on the album, and the song's lyrics will answer your question!" she explains.

Even with all these projects on the go, Lisa is keen to point out that TLC will not be splitting up. "No, TLC are back in the studio. We are working on the fourth album and you will probably be hearing from us next year. It's not a greatest hits either, it's all new material."

Lisa's new single, Block Party, is out on October 15 and her album, Supernova, is out on October 29

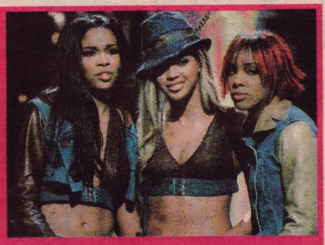
FED UP ABOUT FIVE?

Were you a Five fan? Are you upset that the boys have decided to quit? Do you think J, Abs, Ritchie, Scott and Sean should have carried on? If you've got something to say about the sad demise of one of Britain's best boybands, e-mail Buzz! today and tell us what you think. Maybe you'd just like to send the lads a message, or share your thoughts with other Funday readers. Just mark your e-mail FIVE and send it by noon tomorrow to buzz!@sunday-times.co.uk

MTV'S BIG NIGHT

MTV unveiled plans last week for its spectacular Europe Music Awards 2001. The event will take place on November 8 in Frankfurt, Germany, and will be hosted by Ali G [right]! Whether European viewers will understand Ali's cheeky jokes is doubtful, but the line-up of star performers at the ceremony is rock solid. Expect to see live performances from Craig David, Destiny's Child and Janet Jackson. Gorillaz lead the nominations count with six, while Limp Bizkit [left], Craig David and U2 follow hot on their heals with four nominations each. Keep reading Buzz! for more news on the MTV awards

TOP POPSTER



Here are the results of this week's poll – Funday's very own list of top popsters, along with some of your best comments!

1 Beyoncé Knowles – "She wears cool clothes and she writes amazing songs as well."

2 Britney – "Because her new look is cool and her new single is wicked!"

3 Christina Aguilera – "She is great because she puts up with a lot of stick about her looks. When she turns up to award ceremonies with her big hairdo and her underwear showing, everyone notices her and knows who she is. In her industry you have to make a statement and constantly be in the public eye to make it. It's sad but true."

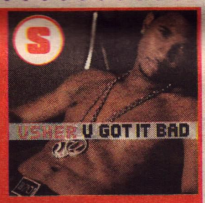
4 Bryan McFadden – "I love all of the other 'Lifers too, but he's just EXTRA gorgeous and nice!"

5 Duncan from Blue – "Because he's lovely! I went to see Blue in Oxford Street for a CD signing and he looked even better in the flesh!"

HOT!

S Single
V Video

U GOT IT BAD Usher ★★★



Ultra-cool Usher's back, and he's taking things down to a very slow pace with this slinky song. Usher's one of the nicest chaps in R&B, and he also puts more expression than most into his singing, which leads to a truly heartfelt track. Even if slow R&B tracks aren't your thing, you can't deny that Usher's a talented young star whose current wave of success is well deserved. If you'd like to find out more about Usher Raymond and his meteoric rise, check out his official website at www.usherworld.com

ACTION MAN VOLUME 3 ★★★

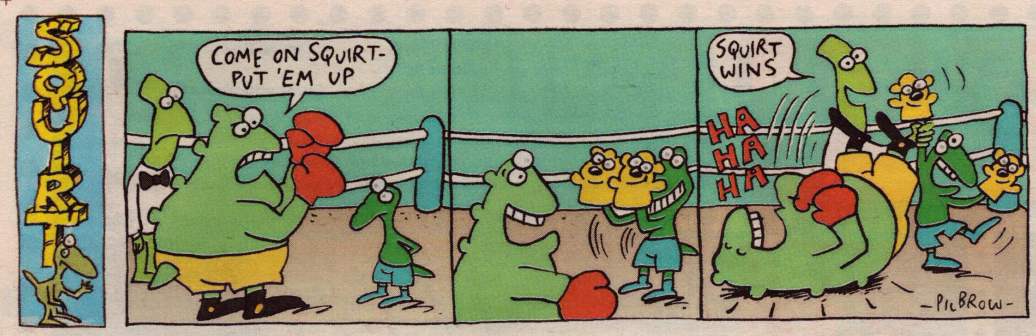
Action Man is back in another video adventure, called Out Of The Shadows [cert PG]. If you saw one of Action Man's first two videos, you'll already be familiar with superhero extreme sports star Alex Mann and his powers. If not, don't worry, you can just leap into his world [named Acceleration Games] with these three adrenaline charged adventures – all computer generated and packed with cool extreme moves and hearty good-versus-evil battles.

I'M A SLAVE 4 U Britney Spears ★★★★★

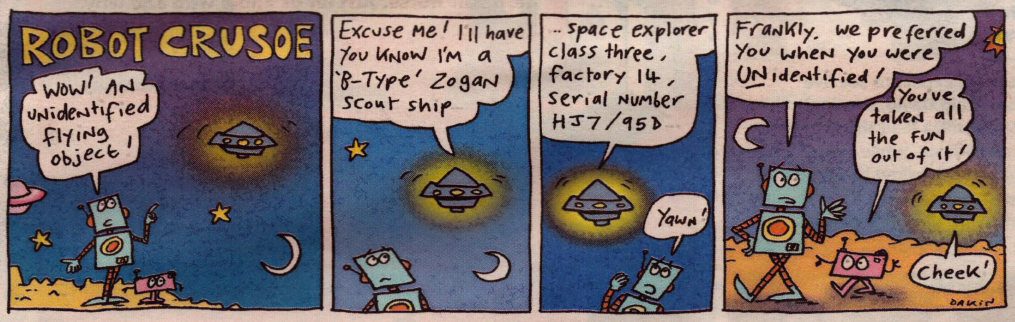
The fact that Britney is about to release her third album is a good enough reason to celebrate, but once again the Princess Of Pop has returned with a fab track that fans will lap up. If you watched the American MTV Awards ceremony recently, you'll have seen Britney performing this track while carrying a live snake! If not, get set for a new sound from Britney. The track has a funky, hollow beat and isn't as triumphant as her usual tracks. But, it's one of her catchiest tunes, that you'll find yourself singing all over the place. The only trouble is, you sound a bit silly when you do. Just wait till you catch yourself doing it and you'll know what we mean!

PICTURES: JOE GIRON, REUTERS, PA

Dive into the world of showbiz when Buzz returns next week



ADVANCE FEATURES



NEXT WEEK

PICTURE: AP/WARNER BROS/PETER MOUNTAIN

Harry's almost here! Funday gets the Golden Snitch rolling as we count the days down until Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone hits our cinema screens on November 16

OFF TO SPAIN

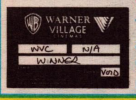
Lucky Funday reader S Daniels from South Darenth, Kent, is the winner of our JMC holiday to Universal Mediterranea. The winner and her family will be enjoying a week-long holiday at the amazing theme park and resort on Spain's Costa Daurada. Have fun!

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday times@sunday-times.co.uk

MOVIE TIME

Film Education is launching this year's National Schools Film Week, which runs from October 12-19. It's the biggest free education event for schools in Europe and every school in the UK can join in by logging on to www.filmeducation.org, which has full listings of all the free events and films being screened over the week. Call 020 7930 3829 for tickets to this year's movies. The writer of the star f-mail will receive a six-month pass to Warner Cinemas to see any film of their choice. The other f-mailers will receive a pair of tickets to Warner Cinemas and a copy of the movie Shrek on video.



national SCHOOLS film week

STAR

John Cuddy, 11, Naas, Ireland

STAR

Rachel Lindsay, 10, Guernsey

Are you a budding artist? Send your cool drawings to f-mail!

FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. **Competition deadline: October 17**

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

SUPER STAMPS

Royal Mail has just launched a dazzling new range of stamps to celebrate the Nobel Prizes.

There are six stamps to collect: Literature, Peace, Physics, Economics, Chemistry and Medicine – and they're Britain's first interactive stamps!

The Literature stamp has a poem that is so small you can only read it with a magnifying glass. The Peace stamp is an embossed picture of a dove, and the Physics stamp is a hologram.

And there's more! The Economics stamp is printed on the paper used for banknotes, Chemistry is heat sensitive so it changes colour when you touch it and the Medicine stamp is a scratch'n'sniff!

To celebrate the arrival of the new stamps, Royal Mail is giving one lucky winner a brand new Compaq Presario computer, a presentation pack of the Nobel Prize stamps and one of the Making Sense of Science: Light Up Your Life books.

Plus, five runners-up will win a Palm hand-held PC, a presentation pack of the Nobel Prize stamps and a copy of the Making Sense of Science book.

A further 20 runners-up will each win a presentation pack and the book.

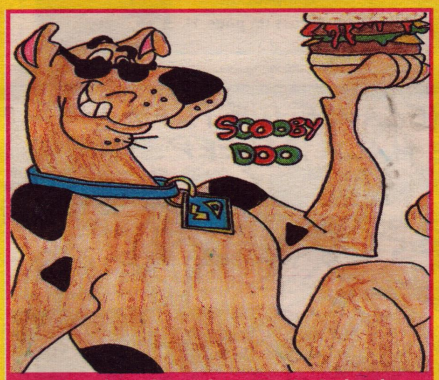
To enter, tell us in no more than 50 words who you would nominate for one of the Nobel Prize categories. Perhaps your friend is a whizz in the science lab or your mum is a fantastic nurse. Just let us know who and why.

Mark your entry NOBEL and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

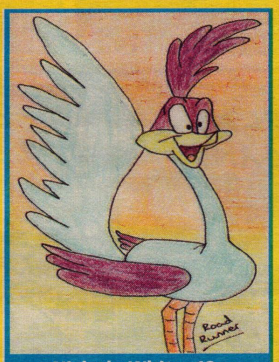
Royal Mail

For more info about Nobel Prizes and stamps go to ww.24hourmuseum.org.uk

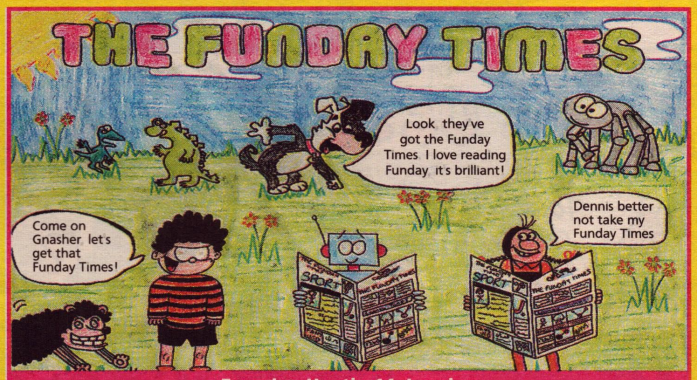
Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



Niamh Redmond, 12, Ennis, Ireland



Nichole White, 12, Bournemouth



Francine Heath, 14, London

Get drawing – a new page dedicated to readers' artwork is coming soon!

FUNDAY SPORT

MARIE TOMS

Marie Toms, from Bleasby, Nottinghamshire, competed in last weekend's world waterski championships in Recetto, Italy. Funday caught up with the 21-year-old British waterskiing star as the team claimed fourth place

What event are you taking part in the world championships?
I'm an overall skier, which means I compete in all three events of slalom, tricks and jump, instead of specialising and doing just one. There are six members of the British team, with two individual skiers, who have reached the qualification scores. Recetto is the Italian Waterski Federation's national training site. Italy thankfully stepped in when Spain pulled out of hosting the competition at the last minute.

Who are your main rivals in your event?
This is my second world championships. I first competed back in 1997 in Colombia, and in 1999 I missed team selection after coming back from injury. This is an open-age category competition, so I'm relatively young. Last year I was competing in under-21s where I was the 2000 European under 21 jump champion. Realistically, this being my first year skiing in open, I'm not anticipating a medal. I'm hoping to ski the best I can, gain valuable experience and put in good scores for the British team.

You have recently been to Florida – is it better to train out there as opposed to in Britain?
The climate in Florida is a lot more suited to skiing than here – warm water, sunshine and less wind! It was really beneficial to us, and has really motivated us all. We were actually very unsure whether or not we'd make the world championships, as we were in Florida during the tragic events in New York when flights were grounded, and then Hurricane Gabrielle hit us!

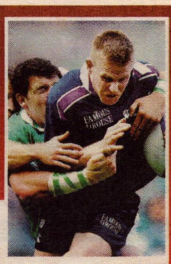
What has been your lowest point in the sport?
Injury – 1998 was my worst year. I tore my posterior cruciate ligament and lateral collateral ligaments in my left knee. I was told I'd never compete again, and after four months of very hard re-hab, I skied again! I didn't have surgery – nobody would operate. But, just weeks later, I took another bad fall and sustained a convulsion fracture to the navicular in my right foot. That was incredibly painful, and everyone was in tears – my dad and my physio who'd just got me through the knee injury. That was a huge psychological setback, and I still suffer the consequences now.

You are on the World Class Performance Plan, can you explain what that is?
The World Class Performance Plan is a scheme run for athletes funded by the National Lottery. It's not just for skiers, but lots of different sports. Each person is graded by their performances in national and international events and awarded money on that basis. This money is for living expenses, training, travel and equipment. It is basically to keep us training and competing, as to ski full-time is very expensive, like any sport.

You have also coached youngsters water skiing, why did you decide to do that?
I was selected to coach at Talent Spotting this year on behalf of British Waterski – the national governing body. I taught under-12s, and was looking for future skiing stars. It was a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed it. It was really satisfying to see the kids learning, improving and enjoying themselves!

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks the best of this week's sporting action



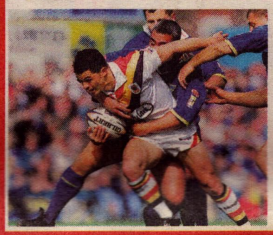
PICTURES: PA

Saturday Six Nations Wales v Ireland

It's a top weekend for rugby fans of both codes, with a double dose of crunching action. After the disappointment of seeing their grand-slam hopes dashed with defeat by Scotland [above], Ireland take on Wales at the Millennium Stadium. The winner of this game will claim second spot behind England. Live on BBC1 at 4pm.

Saturday Super League grand final Bradford v Wigan or St Helens

Meanwhile, rugby league's club season reaches its climax with the grand final at Old Trafford. After the blistering form of Kiwi brothers Henry and Robbie Paul [below], Bradford Bulls must be clear favourites. It should be a fine swansong for Henry before he makes the switch to union, joining Gloucester. The game is live on Sky Sports 1 from 6pm.

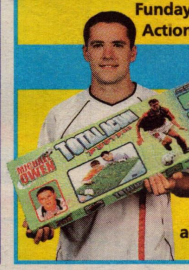


OWEN'S GAME

Michael Owen is the man of the moment, and that's not just because he scores great goals for England and Liverpool. He's also launching a brilliant table football game, Michael Owen's Total Action Football [£21.99]. Players can kick, pass, shoot and trap the ball using the game's magnetised miniatures – making for a action-packed 90 minutes!

Funday has 30 Michael Owen's Total Action Football to give away.

To enter, tell us how old Michael Owen is.



Mark your entry GOAL! and send it, with your name, age and address to the competition address on page 11.

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More top sport next week